

ERRATA.

PAG. 2. l. ult. instead of to read into. Pag. 3. l. 23.
instead of *face*, insert *now*. Pag. 5. l. 21. instead of
the, insert *the Doctor's Ballad*. Pag. 8. l. 13. insert not be-
tween the Words *must* and *venture*.



THE CONDUCT

Of the Reverend
Dr. WHITE KENNET,
 Dean of *Peterborough.*

From the Year 1681, to the Present Time.

BEING A

SUPPLEMENT

To his Three LETTERS

To the Bishop of *Carlisle*,

Upon the Subject of Bishop MERKS.

By an Impartial H A N D.

Quo teneam vultus mutantem *Protea* nodo?

-cum pulchris tunicis nova sumet

Confilia & Spes. *Hav.*

Qui color *albus* erat, nunc est contrarius *albo*.

~~The~~ once was ours, and will be ours again ;

For Art to stifle Nature strives in vain.

Moderation Displayed.

L O N D O N

THE
CONDUCT

Of the R. Society
Dr. William R. Bennett
Dean of the University
From the Year 1681 to the Present Time

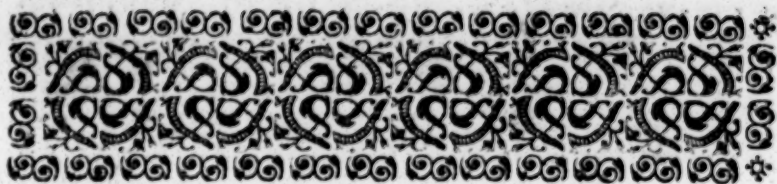


By an Act of Parliament

One hundred and twenty years ago
the first edition of this work was
published. It is now
reissued in a new edition
and will be of great
value to the student of
the history of the
University.

Printed by J. G. Smith

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S O M E
A C C O U N T
O F
Dr. *K E N N E T.*



Anegyricks on a Man, who has, by the latter part of his Life and Actions, been a constant Satire on the former, cannot be expected; nor are these Pieces now sent forth with any design of shewing how compleat a Master in the Art of Oratory the Author is, how accurate a Translator of the high flown *Pliny*, or how just a Poet. But only that the World may have something to compare with his late extraordinary Pieces, by which he seems to bully, not argue, his *Unfortunate* Antagonists into Reason: This great and ambitious Man, seems not to design their Conviction, but the extirpation of their Per-

B sons;

sons; of those Persons, I mean, whom he once had a better Opinion of, and whom, in many things, and those of no mean Consequence, he then agreed with: I could appeal to many honest Gentlemen now living, who could tell us of the great Loyalty of him at *Edmund Hall in Oxford*, at *Ambrosden*, and other parts, where his Name was well known for different Principles from what he has lately taken up. Undoubted Testimonies might be brought of the intimate Friendship between him and a Right Reverend; whom he now terms pretended Prelate of the true Church of *England*; how high Complements (tho' none were Superior to his worth) he paid him on the *Christian Priesthood*, *That he had done the Church the greatest Service imaginable. That his Arguments were unanswerable, his Conviction clear; &c.* and, even this, at a time when he was entering the Lists against that Piece, he seem'd so fond of. But the good Father knew him well, and gave him, and his fulsome Letters, the deserv'd Regard, by exposing them to the World, which would never have been done, had not the Author's baseness demanded such a piece of Justice. By such fulsome Flatteries, as the following Pieces of the Editor, and others of his Order, was seduc'd that unfortunate Prince to those

those measures, which drove him into a second Exile. He was first almost Deified, made Absolute, not to be Controuled; and at last, upon some warm Proceedings, not altogether justifiable, forced to find all those mighty Professions of Unlimited Obedience, not so sincere as his Goodness inclined him to believe they were. Unhappy Prince! how did thy too great Credulity suffer such Wretches to impose on thee, & lead thee into irreparable Mistakes? How were the Notions of Unlimited, and a Dispensing Power, and Passive Obedience, by Court Flatterers and Divines (since turned against thee) then charged upon the Consciences of all, and a Resistance of Thee in all Circumstances pronounced damnable: In these Cases I shall neither pretend to determine in the Negative or Positive, but observe, that several, who were then the loudest for them, soonest declaimed against them, when a proper Season offered.

One Person, since gone to his Place, has indeed, the Assurance since, though he wanted the Courage then, as to say he forewarned his Prince of the unhappy Consequences of those Measures he was then engaged in; by telling him, that a distinction would, if necessary, be soon found to solve the difficulties that atten-

ded the Doctrines of Non-resistance ; So well prepared for all Times and Seasons were these High Church Men. How much more unhappy therefore are Princes, who cannot, like other Men, trust the Oaths, Promises, Addresses, or most solemn Professions of their Subjects, who, when a proper time serves, at once release themselves of all, without the least scruple or doubt. These, and such like Doctrines, our Translator once adhered too, when he called them the *Good Old Doctrines of the Church of England*, when he was a diligent Inquirer after Truth, and had engaged himself in that Party, where (he says, (a) Decemb. 8. 1711.) *it is seldom to be found*. In this unhappy Party was our Doctor, when he wrote his *Burcheſter Letter* and *Oxford Sermon*. King James being dispossessed, and even dead, his Memory must be loaded with unreasonable Obloquies, and the impartial Historian be hired to abuse him and his whole Family. But why do I bestow the Name of Historian on one, who has only corrupted and stole from the Publick Papers, an indigested Rhapsody of Falsehoods and Inconsistencies : How thick he daubs his

(a) *Vide* A Letter prefix'd to the 7th Volume of *Leland's Itinerary*, Lond. 1711. 8vo, pag. 15, 16.

Heroes, how basely he abuses the best Men of the Nation, will, I doubt not, be amply proved from some able Pen, when the Times are fit to bear such Truths. Some Passages have been examined by a Noble Peer, now gone, other Parts are now in Hand, and will be communicated to the Publick at a proper Opportunity; This doughty *Romance*, I know, has been disowned, but the Editor may call to mind, that the Proofs are now so flagrant, as not to admit of a Dispute, but from one of a *Corinthian* Front; the Price paid, the Time when, and the Place where, may hereafter appear in as Publick a manner, as the Author has denied it in; and for fear of the Death of living Testimonies, Depositions are taken, upon Oath, concerning this Scandalous Affair. But I shall wave any more on this Subject, and take Notice, that this was preserved by a former Acquaintance of his, whom he now scarce deigns to look on; and was thought proper to give the World, as a Specimen of *Kennet* the *Battlers* Loyalty. I cannot say he has met with the Preferments expected, tho' the Gospel has been prostituted, and Lewdness panegyricized to so good an end: Whatever he may Dream of, it is to be hoped, *England*, and the Powers in being, will
never

never set a Miter on so worthless, false, and inconstant a Head. In the late Reign with how sensible a regret his present ambition was satisfied by the most excellent Princess, then on the Throne, is too well known, to admit of a denial. Libertinism was not arrived at that height, as to expect Consecration from one; who calls himself a Priest: I have a better opinion of the present Government than to fear the conferring on any favours or more divine Powers on one, whom they, no more than the rest of Mankind can trust.

I have nothing more to add, but to oblige the Publick with the following Specimens of this Gentleman's untainted Loyalty: What follows is a Preface which he wrote to his Translation of *Pliny's Panegyrick*, Publish'd under the following Title, *An Address of Thanks to a Good Prince, Presented in the Panegyrick of PLINY upon TRAJAN the best of Roman Emperours*. Lond. 1686. 8^{vo}. Dedicated to Sir *William Glynne of Amersden* in the County of *Oxford* Baronet, his Highly Honoured Patron.

‘ **S**INCE it is an impulse of Nature to
 ‘ celebrate that goodness by which
 ‘ we are influenc’d, and an universal in-
 ‘ stinct disposes to extol our Benefactors;
 ‘ since

' since too, the infinite obligations of pro-
 ' vidence, have now made subjection our
 ' happiness, as much as Religion has al-
 ' ways assign'd it our duty, and we have
 ' a Monarch so indulgent, that our only
 ' yoke is a pressure of inability to raise him
 ' a deserved commendation : It is obvious
 ' to reflect in this gratulatory Speech of
 ' *Pliny*, and to conclude that nothing
 ' penn'd at so wide a distance comes so near-
 ' ly up for an application to our own times.
 ' For sure a gratitude for the comforts of
 ' an easie Government, and a recognisance
 ' of the merits of a gracious Prince were
 ' never more requisite, never more oppor-
 ' tune. * And would our Supreme Master
 ' be as patient to a just Harangue, as he
 ' once was to the most insolent Libels :
 ' Would he put up a seeming compliment
 ' with as much of unconcern, as he oft

* *N. B.* It is worth while to take notice that
 these Complements, (for by the consequences we
 find they were no more) were wrote after King
James had dispensed, by the advice of some about
 him, with the Test, and granted an Indulgence to
 the Sectaries of all kinds, who well rewarded him
 for it, and were the first, that rose against him :
 The Affair of *Monmouth* in the West, gave him a
 sufficient taste of their Affection for him, which
 he generously, and too uncautiously not only for-
 gave and forgot, but eased them of the Penalties
 of those Laws, which hung over their Heads, and
 might justly have been exacted from them.

dis-

‘ dispens’d with the most substantial
 ‘ affronts : No question but somewhat
 ‘ of this nature had been attempted. But
 ‘ we live so pure from a compulsion of
 ‘ inventing shams for flattery, that we
 ‘ must stifle some truths for fear of their
 ‘ being thought so. And a silence on this
 ‘ Subject, where there be so many temp-
 ‘ tations to be eloquent, can upon that
 ‘ caution only be accounted for. Howe-
 ‘ ver what we dare not imitate, we may
 ‘ at least rehearse : And may apply a
 ‘ Translation, where we must venture at a
 ‘ like Original.

‘ The occasion of this Dutiful Address
 ‘ was a motion of the Roman Parliament
 ‘ that there should be some solemn present-
 ‘ ment of their thanks to the Emperour
 ‘ for his most Excellent manage of Affairs.
 ‘ This Form of their Allegiance they assign
 ‘ to be drawn up, and in publick delivered
 ‘ by their most Honourable Member, the
 ‘ Consul *Pliny*. He accepts the Province,
 ‘ and in a full House, the Emperour Him-
 ‘ self being present, makes an elaborate
 ‘ Speech, and at the expence of three
 ‘ days in recital, sets it off with an ad-
 ‘ mir’d elocution. This fluent draught he
 ‘ afterward on more composed thoughts
 ‘ review’d, corrected and enlarg’d, giving
 ‘ it up to a more spreading publication in
 that

' that model, we have it now conveyed to
 ' us. The intent of it he assures us, was
 ' was first a deserved commendation of the
 ' good *Trajan*, and then the offer of a
 ' kind of winning Lecture to future Prin-
 ' ces, (not by way of assertory instructi-
 ' ons, which he was sensible would have
 ' look'd faucy and pedantick) by recom-
 ' mending the best of Precedents to insin-
 ' uate upon their imitation, which had a
 ' more taking semblance of modesty, and
 ' promised a stronger influence.

' The Style of it in the primitive Latin
 ' (except in some more obscured passages,
 ' which in all likelyhood the transmission
 ' only has corrupted) is incomparably
 ' correct and elegant, and so aptly gar-
 ' nished with unaffected figures, † one of
 ' our best Instructors for Oratory illustrates
 ' and exemplifies most of his ornamental
 ' Tropes by instances drawn from this sin-
 ' gle Tract. In his method of descant he
 ' husbands each particular circumstance to
 ' the most complete advantage, and gent-
 ' ly strains most of his occasional hints be-
 ' yond their natural tendance, which,
 ' though an uncomely excrescence in fa-
 ' miliar narration, is a confessed embellish-

† 'Instructions concerning the Art of Oratory.
 ' Oxford 1682. 8° Second Edit. Sect. 3. p. 19.

' ment to a more free discourse. Our cha-
 ' rity has motives to believe that his in-
 ' ducement hereunto was no jolly heat or
 ' rant of Loyalty, but a generous release-
 ' ment of his very thoughts, a handsome
 ' Exercitation upon what matter of fact
 ' prescrib'd, and every honest tongue could
 ' freely vouch. Yet some strokes are so
 ' flourishing, that should they be transferr'd
 ' to a more justifying occasion, a disaffected
 ' moroseness would censure them for thick and luscious daubing.

' It is certain both the Subject and Lan-
 ' guage have been so well approved, that
 ' its confinement in the Roman dialect
 ' was long since envied, and a discovery
 ' to the English Reader made by the most
 ' ingenious Sir *Robert Stapylton* * whose
 ' ashes can resent it as no affront, that we
 ' cast by his decent dress, and reinvest it
 ' (as presumed) in a more modish garb.
 ' That learned Gentleman was a Critick
 ' at Translating, as the humour then pre-
 ' vailed, which was a religious adherence
 ' to the turn of each original period, and
 ' a preferring the integrity of being close
 ' and exact before the tempting regards
 ' of a smoother cadence. But I think the
 ' measures of Rending are by a practised

* Oxford. 4^o 1644.

' consent since altered, and allowance
 ' is given as well for insertions to con-
 ' nect, where the sense would be other-
 ' wise abrupt or incoherent; as for omis-
 ' sions to exclude what, though copious in
 ' one Tongue, would be redundant in
 ' another. A respect to the observance of
 ' these rules may justify this new attempt:
 ' For with nothing of reflection on that
 ' Honourable Person we may modestly
 ' enough affirm, that he conforms so de-
 ' voutly to the same phrase, deviates so
 ' little from the same dimensions of each
 ' sentence and expression, that he is some-
 ' time diffuse and copious, where it would
 ' better dispence with the smartness of
 ' being more acute; and is at other times
 ' blunt and concise, where the memory
 ' by struggling to recollect the obscured
 ' sense would rather have it more express
 ' and intelligible. But farther, since that
 ' too accurate and precise performance, the
 ' Latin Copy by the emendations of the
 ' *Sheldonian* Press is vindicated from so
 ' many abrupts and entangling chasms,
 ' that it is far more fluent and easie, than
 ' any of the correctest Impressions could
 ' ever before absolve it. And therefore if
 ' some passages in the Original were harsh
 ' and corrupt, it was more excusable,
 ' though not more pleasing, that the

‘ transcript in those several fractures should
 ‘ be more rough and ambiguous. Add
 ‘ to this, the range and disposure of the
 ‘ former was one undivided continuance
 ‘ of delivery without any intermitting
 ‘ partitions, whereas here in compliance
 ‘ with the *Oxford* Edition (which did not
 ‘ first start the invention, but borrow’d
 ‘ the contrivance from * *Jacobus de la*
 ‘ *Baune*) there be interposed at each con-
 ‘ venient distance such numerary Sections,
 ‘ which render the matter more methodi-
 ‘ cal, and greatly relieve the patience of
 ‘ the Reader.

‘ The affinity of this Subject with the
 ‘ happy circumstances of our own times
 ‘ seemed to invite a Parallel. And indeed
 ‘ there is no one vertue here ascribed to a
 ‘ *Roman Emperour*, but what we can com-
 ‘ pletely match in a *British Monarch*.
 ‘ Nay, the odds would be vastly ours :
 ‘ For in the experience of afflictions, in
 ‘ the fortitude of sufferance, in lenity, pru-
 ‘ dence and other Royal Ornaments, most
 ‘ signally in a Justice above Interest or
 ‘ Importunities, in a veracity beyond in-
 ‘ constancy or provocation, we want a
 ‘ Precedent of past ages, and can dare

* ‘ In his Edit. of *Panegyrici veteres*, Illustrat-
 ‘ ed with Notes for the use of the Dauphin, *Pa-*
 ‘ *ris*, 1676. 4^o

' the longest Posterity to produce and offer
 ' a Comparison. So that an endeavour of
 ' making the Parallel run exact would be
 ' an injury to him, who is proposed to
 ' complete it. For to bestow on him all
 ' the *Elogies* that are here assigned, would
 ' scarcely fill up one half of his Character :
 ' And should we pursue a rehearsal of
 ' whatever might be fairly imputed, the
 ' design would be suspected not to rival
 ' but outvie, not to equal, but excel :
 ' Which though a justice on the one part,
 ' would be a seeming derogation on the
 ' other. It is therefore thought more con-
 ' venient to refer the task of comparing
 ' for an exercise of recollection to the
 ' Reader.

' And I challenge the most unthinking
 ' to light upon any one commendable qua-
 ' lity here Recorded of a *Foreign Hero*,
 ' but what he shall immediately pro-
 ' nounce copied and surpassed by our *Native*
 ' *Monarch*. A *Monarch* who by submissi-
 ' on while a Subject, taught others to
 ' obey, and himself to command. Whose
 ' Patience, Generosity and Courage were
 ' never more the envy of the Factious,
 ' than the amazement of the Impartial,
 ' and the transport of the Loyal ; whose
 ' Auspicious entrance to a Throne, assures
 ' the happiest progress, and merits the
 ' longest

‘ longest Establishment on it. † A *Monarch* whose accomplishments are in each respect so admirable, that they surmount flattery, and defie the rankest malice. Whose Vertues are every way so illustrious, that they dazle no less than enlighten: And (what his piety abhors) they almost threaten to eclipse the glories of his *Royal Predecessor*.

‘ There is indeed one kind of vertue in *Trajan* which we care not should be honoured with imitation, and that is his wheedling of the Mobile by several little less than sneaking insinuations, which betray a too violent ambition of being popular, and imply that he chose rather to be a Fondling than a Master of his Subjects, which, however specious and alluring, tastes of a low Soul, and unhinges all Government, makes obedience and submission precarious, animates to claim as a debt whatever is in a good humour granted, and is in effect a resignation of all Authority on the one

† No doubt the trimming Doctor had this passage in his view, when in his Fast Sermon at *Aldgate* pag. 21. he breaks forth into this expression, so consonant to his former words, *We of yesterday, remember that when an Arbitrary, Executive Power, was much more effectually set up in a late Reign, It broke short that Reign.*

‘ hand,

' hand, and a dispensation for resistance
 ' on the other. A main specimen of this
 ' easiness in *Trajan* is his fine Bravo * at
 ' the delivery of a Sword to the Captain
 ' of his Guards, *Take this, and if I Go-*
 ' *vern well, use it for me: But if ill,*
 ' *against me.* This generous charge two
 ' Republican Commentators are so much
 ' affected with, that one † of them thinks
 ' it a concession never enough to be com-
 ' mended; and the other, || good man is
 ' angry with the dull *Pliny* for being no
 ' more Rhetorical on so inviting a Topick,
 ' that he should give so slight a touch on
 ' an action, which, if set off to its due
 ' advantage, would alone suffice for a
 ' complete *Panegyrick*. That all com-
 ' missioned Officers should draw their
 ' Swords in their Supream General's de-
 ' fence, if he would be honest and order-
 ' ly: But if imperious and abusive, should
 ' brandish them to his Execution; ay!
 ' this was a piece of the Law of Nature,
 ' and always an inherent liberty of the
 ' Subject: But former Princes had been
 ' too shy and surly to own it, it was *Tra-*
 ' *jan the Best*, who would first make the
 ' concession: Nay, pass that into an

* ' Sect. 67. † ' Johannes Maria Catanæus.
Gene. 1643. 4° p. 128. || ' Justus Lipsius *Ox-*
on. 1662. 12° p. 196, 197.

' avow'd

' avow'd command, which in its utmost
 ' improvement before had been but a tacit
 ' allowance, This passage with other of
 ' like tendence were pertly cited, and ve-
 ' ry lovingly applied by that virulent
 ' * Preacher in King JAMES I. his Reign,
 ' who borrow'd his Notions of subjection
 ' from *David Pareus*, and so brought on
 ' the Commentaries of that Author, the
 ' mockery of Martyrdom. And the Re-
 ' formed Brethren of *Scotland*, who were
 ' never much addicted to admire any
 ' thing that came from a Prince, were yet
 ' so mightily taken with this compliment
 ' of the Emperor's, that in the minority
 ' of a late Prince they stamp'd on their
 ' Coin the Impress of a Sword with that
 ' Motto. It was a more gudely precept
 ' for liberty than any their barren Gospel
 ' would afford: And though it was a
 ' Heathen rant from one Prince to a parti-
 ' cular Subject, they would adopt it for
 ' an universal Christian duty, and in such
 ' a case, devout Souls, for once they would
 ' obey for conscience sake. Nay, there

* ' See Dr. *Peter Heylyn's Cyprianus Anglicus*:
 ' Or the History of the life and death of *William*
 ' *Laud*, Arch. of *Canterbury*, &c. *London* 1674.
 ' in Fol. Part 1. l. 2. under the year 1622. p: 88,
 ' 89. *Historia & Antiquitates Universitatis Oxoni-*
 ' *ensis*. *Oxon.* 1674. fol. lib. 1. under the year 1622.
 ' p. 326, 327, &c.

‘ has scarce been any one pestilent Libel
 ‘ teemed to promote Anarchy and justify
 ‘ * Rebellion, but what has gloried in
 ‘ this Quotation and built upon it the
 ‘ consequence of an Arbitrary Submission,
 ‘ not longer to be practised than while
 ‘ no Oppressions or Grievances could be
 ‘ plausibly, or indeed possibly complained
 ‘ of. Yet it must be confest that † lear-

* ‘ Steph. Junii Bruti Vindiciæ contra Tyrannos, &c. Ursellis, 1600. 12° quæst. 3. p. 158.
 ‘ *Anonymous Treatise De jure Magistratum in Subditos, &c.* p. 217. annexed usually to the former; both which very scandalous and pernicious pieces have been almost generally reputed to have been penned by Theod. Beza; although some, I know, have fathered the latter on his Comrade Francis Hottoman, the great Civilian. Grot. De jure belli ac pacis, &c. l. 1. c. 4. §. 6. Johannis Miltoni pro Populo Anglicano defensio, &c. Lon. 1651. 12° p. 176, 177. with many others.

† ‘ Joannis Adami Osiandri Jus belli ac pacis H. Grotii illustratum Tubingæ, 1671. 8° ad l. 1. c. 4. Thes. 6. Observatio, p. 552. Sam. Bocharti Epistola Domino Morley adjecta Geogr. Sacræ, &c. Francof. 1674. 4° p. 54. Dr. Will. Falkner’s *Christian Loyalty*, &c. Lond. 1679. 8° b. 2. c. 5. §. 1. Para. 8. Dr. Gabriel Tower-son’s *Explication on the Decalogue*, &c. Lon. 1681. Fol. On the V. Com. Part 7. p. 259. Sir George Mackenzie’s *Jus Regium*, &c. Lond. 1684. 8° p. 50. Dr. W. Sherlock’s *Case of Resistance*, &c. Lond. 1684. 8° c. 5. p. 171, 172. Besides Dr. William Howel, who barely mentions it; Institution of General History, &c. Lon. 1680. Fol. Second Edit. b. 4. c. 5. p. 883.

' ned Authors of a calmer temper have
 ' constantly given far more sober inter-
 ' pretations of this so unwary and incon-
 ' siderate a flourish. But whether this
 ' expression of *Trajan* were only the
 ' stretch and effort of a complaisant hu-
 ' mour ; or no more than a figure to dress
 ' up his confidence of that Person's inte-
 ' grity to whom it was applied : Or whe-
 ' ther (what's indeed the most plausible
 ' *Salvo*, yet argues a flight of generosity
 ' beyond discretion) it was a declaration
 ' of his fixt Resolves to govern well. We
 ' are sure if it be interpreted for a Serious
 ' instruction, for any practicable advice,
 ' nothing could more proclaim the unad-
 ' visedness of that Prince, because nothing
 ' more evacuates all the ties of Allegiance.
 ' For if Subjects must in truth no longer
 ' submit, than they confess themselves un-
 ' oppress'd and honestly dealt with : But as
 ' soon as a little teased with any imagina-
 ' ry wrong (for they themselves are to be
 ' sole judges, or the principle has no con-
 ' sequence) may fly in the face of that
 ' Authority, which gives them the affront,
 ' and depose that power which they suspect
 ' will be too hard for them, is so rank a
 ' Tenet, that Treason, Tumult, Anarchy,
 ' Confusion, and all the licentious mis-
 ' chiefs

' chiefs of Earth and Hell would be its
 ' damning inference: † The Prince be-
 ' ing crush'd into the most helpless of
 ' slaves, and every peevish Incendiary
 ' preferred his Supreamer Lord. It hur-
 ' ries on so violently to Seditions and Re-
 ' bellion, that did the Romans believe
 ' they might do what this direction to the
 ' Captain implied, and yet permit the
 ' Emperour, who authoris'd them with
 ' that privilege, to pass his one and twen-
 ' ty years Reign without any mutiny or
 ' insurrection: I say, did the Romans
 ' suppose it to be serious advice, and yet
 ' never pervert it to the prejudice of him,
 ' who bestow'd it, nothing less can be
 ' inferred than (what is not handsome to
 ' own) that the Loyalty of Heathens sur-
 ' mounts that of the precisest Christians,
 ' since the one could be steadily obedient
 ' where they had in a manner leave to
 ' resist: And yet the other be so apt to
 ' to rebel, where they have all the re-
 ' strictions of Nature, Religion, and Na-
 ' tional Laws to submit and be quiet.

† However the passive Doctrines may have
 formerly been enforc'd on our Consciences, how
 happy are we now to enjoy so much better Guides,
 who scruple not to Commission us to use that
 Sword against *Trajan* which we have entrusted
 him with, if he is not a Minister for good.

‘ Nay, had this soothing Prince deli-
 ‘ vered it as a license to have himself
 ‘ chastised, yet by the frankest concession
 ‘ he could not have authorised the Cap-
 ‘ tain’s revolt. For it is even beyond the
 ‘ Prerogative of Supream Powers to Legi-
 ‘ timate Resistance, or endow their Sub-
 ‘ jects with a Charter to rebel. How-
 ‘ ever valid unextorted Resignations and
 ‘ voluntary assents to deposition may be,
 ‘ yet ’tis certain no Sovereign Authority,
 ‘ while so continuing, can dispence any
 ‘ liberty for disobedience, or absolve from
 ‘ the crime of Treason, any more than
 ‘ my saying to another, *I’ll give you leave*
 ‘ *to kill me*, would in Justice acquit him
 ‘ from the guilt of Murther.

‘ So that whatever acceptation it will
 ‘ bear, there is nothing more illogical, im-
 ‘ pertinent, or absurd than to alledge it
 ‘ as an authentick plea for Subjects by
 ‘ force to amend the suspected irregulari-
 ‘ ties of their Governours: Yet to this
 ‘ use have a great many late Demagogues
 ‘ most pertly applied it in challenge and
 ‘ defiance to all the evident restrictions of
 ‘ Nature’s and Religion’s Laws. Some
 ‘ from hence inferring a right of Resistance
 ‘ as a property of each the most inferiour
 ‘ member of Societies: Others by a mo-
 ‘ dester (though no less mischievous) re-
 ‘ trench

‘ trench confining it to the subordinate
 ‘ Magistrates, whose Office is pretended
 ‘ to impower ’em for a defence of the
 ‘ peoples liberties, though in exprefs op-
 ‘ position to that Superiour, who depu-
 ‘ ted them.

‘ After all, the most natural deduction,
 ‘ which I conceive this passage capable of,
 ‘ is this, that such flashes of good nature
 ‘ in a Prince may be of very hurtful con-
 ‘ sequence, they prostitute his honour, Ali-
 ‘ enate his Authority, and make all the
 ‘ rabble an execrable High Court of Ju-
 ‘ stice. Hence I wondered at always and
 ‘ condemned the inconsiderateness of those
 ‘ Authors, who, though they would in-
 ‘ terpret it to no disloyal tendence, yet
 ‘ have winked at the consequence they are
 ‘ presumed to detest, and have only ex-
 ‘ tolled this saying for the noble folly of a
 ‘ resolute, undaunted, and Heroick Soul.
 ‘ Whereas ’tis at the best but an unwary
 ‘ vapour, an indigested flant of populari-
 ‘ ty, to the quest whereof this Prince was
 ‘ too abundantly addicted, as is farther
 ‘ conspicuous in several other of his de-
 ‘ meanours remarked in the following ha-
 ‘ rangue: Particularly in the *LVI*. Sect.
 ‘ where *Pliny* seems to intimate that *Tra-*
 ‘ *jan* had submitted himself to Govern up-
 ‘ on the strange and unheard-of-terms of
 ‘ the

‘ *the Prince being not above the Laws, but*
 ‘ *the Laws above the Prince* : Which de-
 ‘ stroys the prime and fundamental Pre-
 ‘ rogative of Princes, their being unac-
 ‘ countable to any but God, and was the
 ‘ very Principle our late Regicides pro-
 ‘ ceeded on. It is true, if that specious
 ‘ Maxim be meant only of the pre-emi-
 ‘ nence of the Laws in a bare directive
 ‘ and regulative power, it is what sober
 ‘ Men have always owned, and wise
 ‘ Princes have as duly practised ; but if it
 ‘ must be understood (as the occasion and
 ‘ coherence in *Pliny* intimate) of a coer-
 ‘ cive, and vindicative power to be exer-
 ‘ cised on Supream Governours, ; when-
 ‘ ever their Subjects shall adjudge them
 ‘ guilty of the breach of those Laws,
 ‘ which they have obliged themselves by
 ‘ Oath to observe : It debases the Prince
 ‘ beneath the vilest Malefactors, and ex-
 ‘ poses his Person to the worst of Butche-
 ‘ ries : For though it proclaims not an im-
 ‘ punity to a private Assassinate, yet it
 ‘ ascertains the Murther, and enhances
 ‘ the ignominy, by justifying a formal
 ‘ execution.

‘ These strictures upon the uncautious,
 ‘ humour of *Trajan*, I have thought fit
 ‘ to premise from an hearty aversness to
 ‘ whatever plausible pretences may insti-
 ‘ gate

' gate to Sedition. Such little improvi-
 ' dent deliveries are as poisonous as the
 ' rankest of downright positions, nay,
 ' they be more fatal, because tricked up
 ' in a more specious guise, where the ve-
 ' nom, in being less discerned is the more
 ' palatably imbibed, and spreads its in-
 ' fection with the greater defiance to Art
 ' and Antidote. So that if this censure
 ' obviate all farther contagion, it is what
 ' my honest endeavours sincerely aim at,
 ' and what my prayers shall never be
 ' wanting to promote.

' Yet after this reflection on the easiness
 ' and indecent compliances of *Trajan*, I
 ' must doe him so much justice as to con-
 ' fess, that he was judicious enough to
 ' foresee the mischiefs of his hanging on
 ' the peoples courtesie ; and therefore
 ' whenever any impendent danger threat-
 ' ned, he vindicated his dignity from all
 ' encroachments, and sharply quelled all
 ' the assaults of faction, as is evident in
 ' several occurrences of his Reign, more
 ' eminently in his exemplary justice on
 ' those Rebels, who disturbed his Prede-
 ' cessours Peace, *Casperius* and his Preto-
 ' rians, who protested against *Nerva's*
 ' pardon of *Domitian's* Murtherers, and
 ' Covenanted to bring them all to a con-
 ' dign punishment : Yet without any in-
 ' jury

‘ jury to the Person of their Prince; but
 ‘ for all this winning and pious pretext,
 ‘ *Trajan* sends for them, and amidst their
 ‘ hopes of excuse and preferment, executes
 ‘ the Leader and principal followers: To
 ‘ which just vengeance the happiness of his
 ‘ remaining years is more to be attributed
 ‘ than to any Clemency or sparing In-
 ‘ dulgence.

‘ And now I ask the Reader no other
 ‘ mercy, but that when he has run
 ‘ through this Character of a *Roman*
 ‘ *Emperour*, he would bless the Divine
 ‘ Providence for living under the protecti-
 ‘ on of a more GRACIOUS MONARCH,
 ‘ who wants nothing but the united
 ‘ Allegiance of his Subjects to make
 ‘ him Happier than *Augustus*, since
 ‘ Heaven’s and his own *Goodness* have
 ‘ already made him even *Better* than
 ‘ *Trajan*.

To this fawning Preface, as another
Specimen of Dr. *Kennet*’s Loyalty, it is
 thought proper to add the following Ballad,
 now very Scarce, having been destroyed
 by the Author’s admirers, that it might
 never rise in judgment against him, and
 lately sent from *Oxford* by an old Acquain-
 tance, who loved him once, when he was
 Just to his own Conscience, and to the
 World.

T O

To *M. E. L.* on his Majesties
(*K. CHARLES II.*) Dissol-
ving the late Parliament at
Oxford March 28. 1681.

By *WHITE KENNET*, a Battler of *St. Ed-
mund's-Hall* in *Oxford*, now Dean of
Peterborough. Writ when he was an
Under-Graduate of three years standing.

AN Atheist now must a Monster be,
Of a strange Gigantick Birth:
His Omnipotence does let all Men see,
That our King's a God on Earth.

Fiat, says he, by Proclamation,
And the Parliament is Created:
He repents his work, the Dissolution
Makes all Annihilated.

We Scholars were expell'd a while,
To let the Senators in,
But they behaved themselves, as
So we return agen:

And wonder to see our *Geometry-School*,
All round about be-seated,
E
Though

Though there's no need of an *Euclid's* Rule,
To demonstrate 'em all defeated.

The Commons their voting Problems would
In Riddles so involve,
That what the Peers scarce understood,
The King was forced to solve.

The Commons for a good *Omen* chose
An old consulting Station :
Being glad to dispossess their Foes
Oth' House of *Convocation*.

So Statesmen like poor Scholars be,
For near the usual Place *
They stood, we know, for a great *Degree*
But the King deny'd their *Grace*.

Though sure he must his Reason give,
And charge them of some Crime :
Or else by course they'l have Reprieve,
For this is the *Third time* : †

It was because they did begin,
With insolent behaviour :
And who should expiate their Sin,
The King himself's no Saviour.

* *Proscholium* in the Statutes, *vulgo*, the Pigg-Market.

† An allusion to the University Custom of giving a Reason after the third denial of a Degree to any Person.

Their faults grew to a billk so high
 As Mercy did forestall :
 So Charter forfeited thereby,
 They must like *Adam* fall.

It is resolved the *Duke* shall fail,
 A Scepter to inherit :
 Nor Right nor Desert shall prevail,
 'Tis Popish to plead Merit.

Let the *King* respect the *Duke* his Brother,
 And keep affection still
 As duly to the Church his Mother :
 In both they'll cross his will

They would Dissenters harmless save
 And Penalties repeal :
 As if they'd humour Thieves, who crave
 A Liberty to steal.

Thus he that does a Pardon lack
 For Treason doom'd to dye,
 They'd tempt, poor man, || to save his neck,
 By adding Perjury.

The Nobles threw th' Impeachment out,
 Because, no doubt, they saw,
 'Twas best to bring his Cause about,
 But not to th' *Commons Law*.

|| Fitz-Harris.

But

Though there's no need of an *Euclid's* Rule,
To demonstrate 'em all defeated.

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|| Fitz-Harris.

But

But hence 'twas plaguily suspected,
 Nay, 'tis resolved by Vote,
 That the Lords are Popishly affected
 And Stiflers of the Plot.

The Commons Courage can't endure
 To be affronted thus:
 So for the future to be sure,
 They'll be the Upper-House.

But by such Fev'rish Malady,
 Their Strength so soon was spent,
 That Punning Wits no doubt will cry,
Oh weeked Parliament.

Printed in the Year 1681. in the beginning
 of April.

— — — *Pudet hæc opprobria Vobis,
 Et dici potuisse, et non potuisse refelli.*

F I N I S.

There is now Preparing for the Press,
THE LIFE of Dr. White Kennet.
 Those Gentlemen who have any
 Memoirs by them conducive to so use-
 ful a Work, if they will be pleas'd to
 send them to *A. Dodd* at the *Pea-*
cock without *Temple-Bar*, the favour
 shall be gratefully acknowledg'd.

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